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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 04 NEW DELHI 001424

SIPDIS

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TAGS: [ECON](#) [KISL](#) [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [PINR](#) [PREL](#) [IN](#) [PK](#)

SUBJECT: THE BJP PROMISES FIREWORKS FOR BUDGET SESSION
REF: A. NEW DELHI 1282

[1](#)B. MUMBAI 370

Classified By: A/DCM Geoff Pyatt, for Reasons 1.4 (B, D)

- [1](#)1. (C) Summary: The BJP leadership is determined to disrupt Parliament when the Budget Session convenes on February 25, insisting that the BJP is Out For Blood

- [1](#)2. (U) The BJP leadership has orchestrated street protests and held news conferences to signal its outrage at UPA behavior in Goa, and has
- [1](#)3. (U) NDA leaders returned to the streets of New Delhi on February 16, promising not to allow Parliament to function properly until the U of Kashmir May Also Provide an Issue

- [1](#)4. (U) Some within the BJP leadership have also expressed anger at the February 16 announcement of a bus service between Srinagar and Muzaf
- [1](#)5. (U) Another Pro-BJP journalist, Ajay Bose, was not certain, however, that Kashmir would provide a ready-made issue to disrupt Parliament The Jharkhand/Bihar Election Issue

- [1](#)6. (C) The perpetually chaotic situation in Jharkhand and Bihar may also provide grist for the BJP mill. Election results are to be released The Economic Issues

- [1](#)7. (C) FinMin Chidambaram's presentation of the federal budget to Parliament on February 28, is likely to elicit opposition from the UPA's
- [1](#)8. (C) The interim budget adopted July 2004 aimed to relax foreign investment restrictions in the civil aviation, telecoms, and insurance sectors. Chidambaram wants to rationalize the USD 11 billion a year that the GOI spends on subsidies for wheat, rice, fertilizer, LPG, and kerosene A Congress View Point

- [1](#)9. (C) On February 22, Congress MP Rashid Alvi told Poloff that he was certain the BJP will disrupt parliament, that the Goa government's c
- [1](#)10. (C) Alvi dismissed the Nanavati Commission issue as an example of poor judgment by the BJP. According to Alvi, the BJP has not seen th
- [1](#)11. (C) In Jharkhand, Alvi predicted that the JMM/Congress/RJD alliance will win a clear majority, and Congress will keep the JMM happy b
- [1](#)12. (C) Congress is hoping that Laloo and Paswan both fail to form the government and turn to Congress, which has already promised to ins
- [1](#)13. (C) Alvi predicted that the BJP would not raise the recent agreement to open bus service across the line of control, saying that with The BJP Insider's View

- [1](#)14. (C) On February 24, BJP National General Secretary and MP Gautam Shri Singh Priya confirmed to Poloff that his party plans to disrupt
- [1](#)15. (C) According to Priya, Bihar represents an opportunity for the BJP to make gains against the UPA, as Laloo is the coalition's Achilles
- [1](#)16. (C) Priya dismissed both Kashmir and the Nanavati Commission report as viable issues, as they "are only temporary." In Kashmir, he Comment
- [1](#)7. (C) With its fortunes fading, the BJP is looking for issues it can use to spark a revival during the Parliament session, lest its Congress insiders have described to an unusual series of high level conclaves over the past few days, suggesting that Sonia Gandhi and the re MULFORD